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**State of Connecticut**  
**SENATE**  
*Third District*

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Public Health Committee  
*Vice Chair*  
Insurance & Real Estate Committee  
*Member*  
Appropriations Committee  
Children Committee  
Environment Committee

To Government Administration and Election Committee Chairs Senator Mae Flexer and Representative Matt Blumenthal, Vice Chairs Senator Mae Flexer and Representative Michael Quinn, Ranking Members Senator Rob Sampson and Representative Amy Morrin Bello, and honorable members of the Government Administration and Election Committee, I write to you today to provide testimony in support of House Bill 5704, "An Act Concerning Mandatory Voting."

This bill was introduced to start a conversation about how we can improve voter turnout in Connecticut after the most recent municipal elections showed jarringly low results in certain municipalities. In Hartford's 2021 municipal election, as one example, just 5% of eligible voters participated, meaning just one in every 20 residents who could make their voice heard did so. Just one of the four towns, I represent as a Senator, saw participation of over 40%; two of them had participation rates of less than 25%. A steep minority of voters were responsible for selecting those who would aid and lead their communities for multiple years – that's a major concern for the strength of our civic bodies.

This bill isn't meant to be regressive – it's meant to delve into the issue of voter participation and seeks to expand voting numbers each year. Our state's communities deserve the best possible representation that matches the ideals and embodies the intent of their residents, and the more people who vote, the better their leaders can represent them. I'm hopeful that we can have constructive conversations around this issue and find measures where we can advance and improve Connecticut's civic participation.

Respectfully,

State Senator, 3<sup>rd</sup> District